

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EB-08 /023 W

-----101737Z 126818 /43

P 100859Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4548

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FOR OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, RW

SUBJECT: TEA PROJECT

REF: STATE 027883

1. RENZAHU STILL UNABLE COME UP WITH INFORMATION ON TEA PROJECT PROMISED PREVIOUSLY (MY MEMCON JAN. 27) DUE TO BURDEN OF OCAM ACTIVITIES. (PROBLEMS MORE SERIOUS THAN SIRT HAVE HAD TO WAIT WHILE GOR HOSTS ITS FIRST MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE EVER).

2. HOWEVER, DURING OPENING CEREMONIES OCAM SUMMIT LAST NIGHT, I BRACED PRESIDENCY SEC GEN BUREGEYA WITH SIRT PROBLEM, EXPLAINING OPIC UNABLE DISBURSE FUNDS SO LONG AS PROJECT NOT

FINALLY RATIFIED AND WERTHEIM NOT DULY AUTHORIZED TO ACT ON SIRT BEHALF. BUREGEYA, WITH DEEPLY FURROWED BROW, SAID THAT "PROJECT WAS GOING BADLY AND THERE WERE SERIOUS TROUBLES." HE ANTICIPATED THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE COMPLETE REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS WITH WERTHEIM. "BUT BASIC AGREEMENT ALREADY NEGOTIATED AND SIGNED," I INSISTED. YES, HE SAID, BUT GOR HAD GRAVE DOUBTS ABOUT WERTHEIM HIMSELF

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NOW.

3. BUREGEYA DID NOT WANT TO GO INTO MATTER ANY FURTHER AT THIS POINT, OFFERING TO BE BACK IN TOUCH AFTER TABLE RONDE DISCUSSIONS FEB 17 - 19. I PERSUADED HIM THAT OPIC/USG WAS GROWING INCREASINGLY IMPATIENT WITH LACK OF MOVEMENT ON PROJECT, AND HE FINALLY AGREED TO MEET WITH

ME EARLY NEXT WEEK.

4. COMMENT: DEPT/OPIC SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED AT DIFFERING SIGNALS FROM DIFFERENT GOR OFFICIALS ON THIS SUBJECT. AS EMBASSY HAS ATTEMPTED TO MAKE CLEAR IN PREVIOUS REPORTING, TEA PROJECT HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A HOT POTATO WITHIN GOR. THERE IS GENERALIZED IMPRESSION THAT "SOMETHING IS WRONG," BUT NO ONE IS QUITE READY TO LEVEL WITH EMBASSY ABOUT IT. FOR ITS OWN PART, EMBASSY HAS FELT IT WISER TO LEAVE DAY-TO-DAY DEALINGS WITH GOR TO WERTHEIM'S LOCAL REP. HOWEVER, NOW THAT WE HAVE MADE OPIC/IFC CONCERNS CLEAR AT BOTH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PRESIDENCY, PERHAPS WE CAN GET A HANDLED ON PROJECT'S "POLITICAL" PROBLEMS. CRIGLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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